



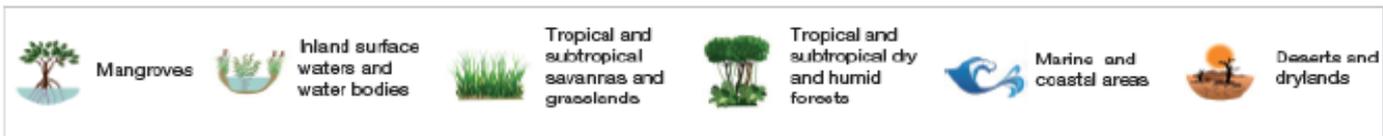
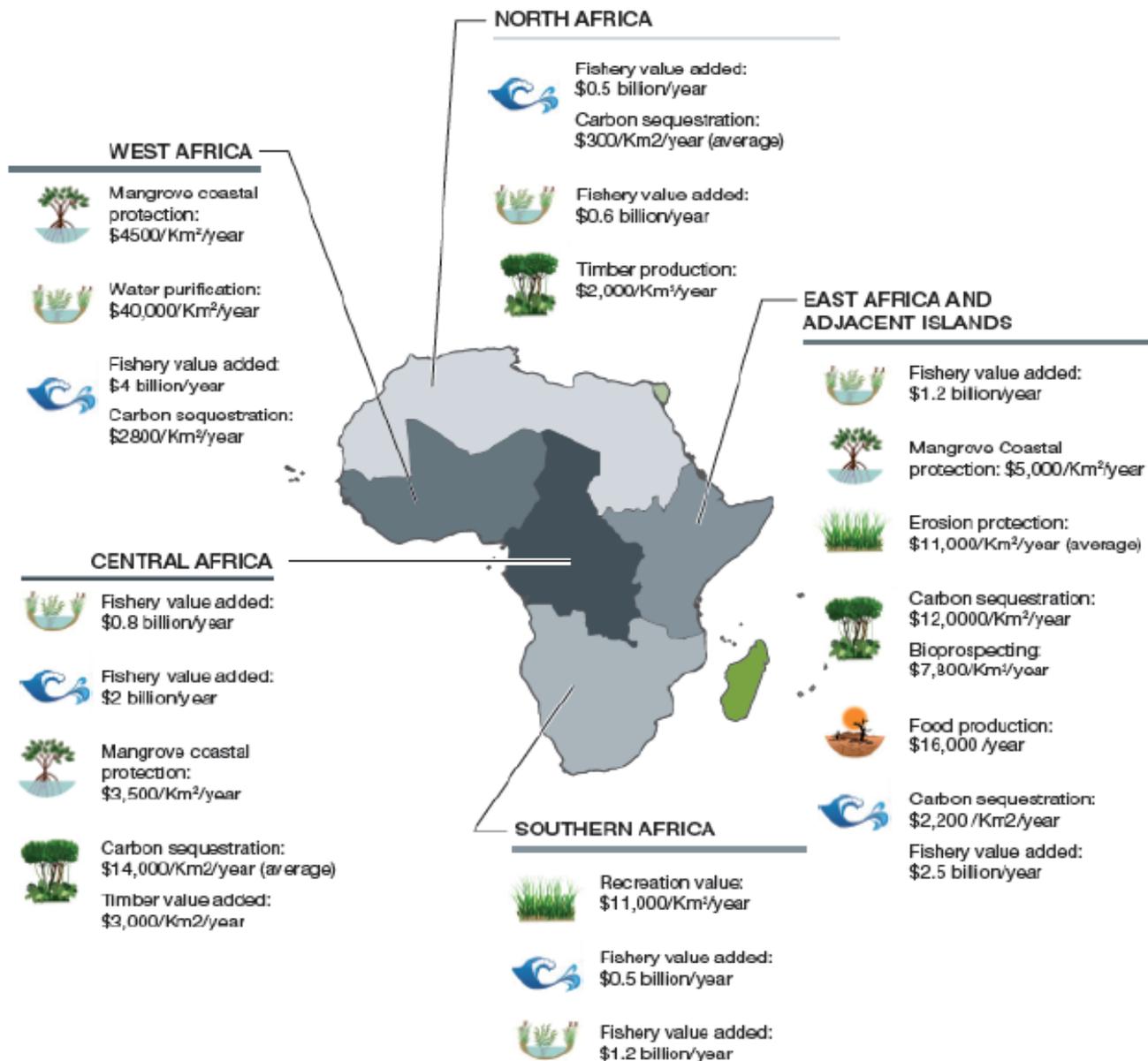
Regional Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services: Africa

**Luthando Dziba, Emma Archer, Jo Mulongoy
(Assessment Co-Chairs)**

Carmel Mbizvo (SANBI)

Africa has a rich heritage

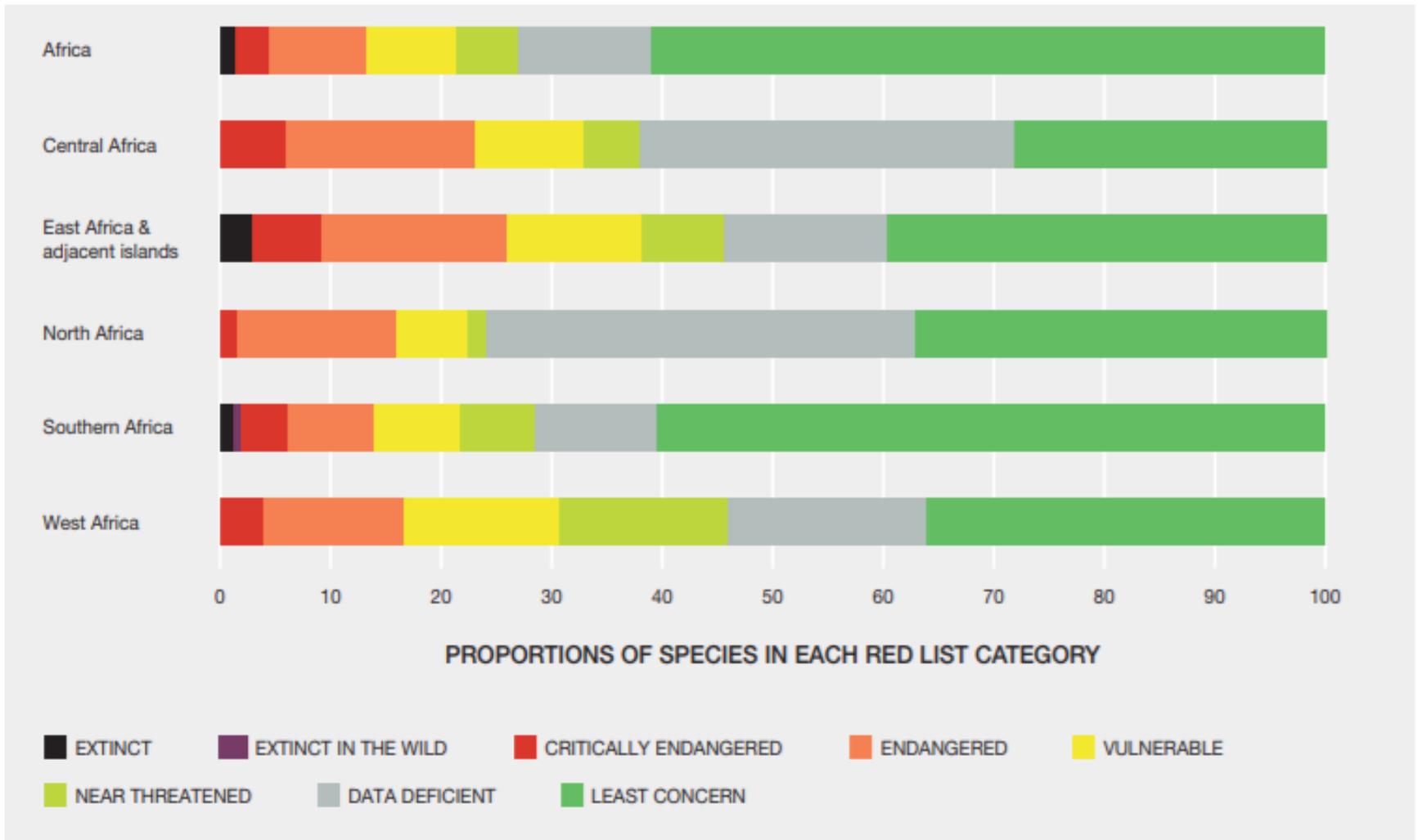
- Africa's extraordinary richness in biodiversity and ecosystem services, and its wealth of indigenous and local knowledge, comprises a strategic asset for sustainable development in the region.
- Africa is the last place on Earth with a significant assemblage of large mammals.
- Africa's rich and diverse ecosystems generate flows of goods and services that are essential in providing for the continent's food, water, energy, health and secure livelihood needs.
- Yet, the true value of biodiversity's contributions to human well-being is underappreciated in decision-making processes.



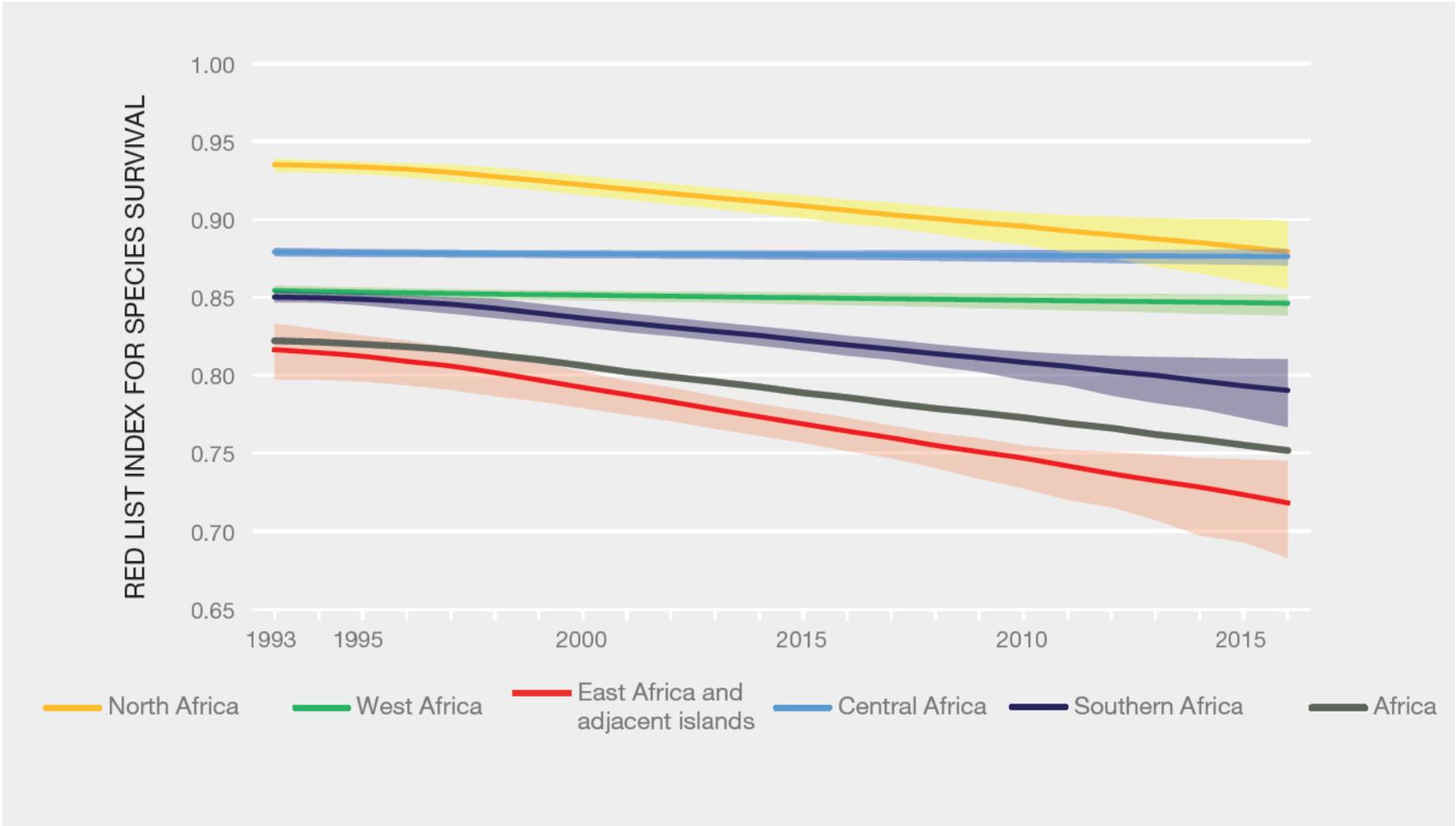
Africa is under pressure

- Some 20 per cent of Africa's land surface (6.6 million km²) is estimated to be degraded because of soil erosion, salinization, pollution and loss of vegetation or soil fertility.
- Even greater pressure will be placed on Africa's biodiversity as the current population of 1.25 billion people is set to double by 2050.
- By 2100, climate change could result in the loss of more than half of African bird and mammal species, a 20-30% decline in the productivity of Africa's lakes and significant loss of African plant species.

Africa is under pressure



Red List Indices of species survival for five taxonomic groups (mammals, birds, amphibians, corals and cycads) in Africa, weighted by the fraction of each species' distribution occurring within each subregion



Where are we going, and can we achieve our targets?

- Drivers of biodiversity loss will increase in all plausible futures considered in this assessment
- Of the five possible scenarios explored, two (regional sustainability and local sustainability) are identified as the most likely paths to meet Africa's economic, social and environmental development aspirations
- Achieving AU Agenda 2063, the SDGs, and the Aichi targets unlikely in three out of five plausible futures considered
- **BUT**, there is a need for capacity building on the use of scenarios in decision-making.

Africa has options

- Measures taken to protect biodiversity by African Governments, such as **expansion of protected areas**, **restoration of ecosystems** and **control of invasive alien species**, have already contributed to the recovery of some threatened species.
- Improved understanding of the value of Africa's biodiversity is critical for human well and socio-economic development
- There is a need to better integrate indigenous and local knowledge in decision-making in Africa
- Scenarios are underused in decision-making processes in Africa. Concerted effort is needed to build the capacity of African researchers, policymakers and institutions to understand, carry out and make beneficial use of scenario analyses for intervention planning and informed decision-making.



The Process

- **Number of Experts: 143**
- **Number of Countries: 31**
- **Number of sources: 2359**
- **Number of external review comments: 3112**



ASSESSMENT TIMELINE

January 2015 Scoping report established the parameters of the assessments.

May - June 2016 External experts and Governments reviewed first draft of the assessment chapters, with review comments incorporated into the subsequent drafts by IPBES experts.

May - June 2017 Governments and external experts reviewed the second drafts of the assessment chapters and the first drafts of the summaries for policymakers. These comments are being reviewed and will be incorporated into the final drafts by IPBES experts.

March 2018 Negotiation by member States at IPBES-6 Plenary session of final text of the summaries for policymakers of the five assessment reports in Medellín, Colombia, followed by their public launches.



Thank You